

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH FOREIGN TRADE CONTROL MECHANISMS

REF WARSAW 0397

1. MR. JAN BRUKSZO, VICE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MACHINE TRADE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY, GAVE EMBASSY OFFICIALS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF POLAND'S PLANS FOR CONTROLLING THE DIRECTION OF FOREIGN TRADE AND THE ROLE OF THE NEW TARIFF.

2. THE NEW POLICY WILL GIVE ADDED AUTHORITY FOR FOREIGN-TRADE DECISIONS TO BOTH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND THE PRODUCING UNITS. THE MINISTRY WILL GAIN INCREASED CONTROL OVER POLISH IMPORTS BY MEANS OF A STRENGTHENED IMPORT-LICENSING PROCEDURE. IN THE PAST, IMPORT LICENSES COULD BE OBTAINED ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE ONCE THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE END-USER, THE FTO (AND PERHAPS ITS PARENT MINISTRY), AND THE FOREIGN-TRADE BANK. IN THE FUTURE, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE WILL CAREFULLY REVIEW THE PROPOSED SOURCE OF THE IMPORT AND THE FOREIGN-
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TRADE PERFORMANCE OF THE END-USER. IN THIS REGARD, BRUKSZO NOTED THAT FOREIGN-TRADING UNITS WILL CONTINUE

TO RECEIV TARGET FIGURES FOR EXPORTS, IMPORTS, AND BALANCE, BUT BALANCE WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE THREE IN THE FUTURE. IF AN END-USER IS NOT MEETING ITS TARGET FOR TRADE BALANCE, THE IMPORT LICENSE WILL BE DENIED.

3. BRUKSZO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE WOULD CONTROL IMPORTS VERY CLOSELY, WHILE THE INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES AND ENTERPRISES WOULD BE GIVEN MORE DISCRETION IN PLANNING EXPORTS, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE TARGET FIGURES FOR EXPORT AND BALANCE.

4. BRUKSZO SAID THAT THE POLISH TARIFF IS NOT EXPECTED TO INFLUENCE FOREIGN-TRADE DECISIONS DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS. FOR SOME INDEFINITE PERIOD, THE FTO'S WILL BE REIMBURSED BY THEIR PARENT MINISTRIES FOR ANY TARIFFS THEY PAY.

5. BRUKSZO ANTICIPATES THAT ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN THE FOREIGN-TRADE CONTROL MECHANISM WILL BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN A WEEK. WE WILL REPORT ANY SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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